

Palle Mikkelborg: 28:50
Everything matters (1988).

Herman D. Koppel: 28:50
Duo for violin and guitar op 116 (1987).

Jørgen Jersild: 12:55
10 Impromptu (1987).

Vagn Holmboe: 8:38
Duo Concertato op.167 (1987).

Total: 59:10

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OUR Recordings

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www.ourrecordings.com

1	Prologue	2:40
2	Waltz 1	0:44
3	The Limitless Room	5:40
4	Waltz 2	1:15
5	Metamorphosis	6:23
6	Movement	4:45
7	Realization	2:42
8	Waltz 3	2:23
9	Epiloque	2:18

10	Allegro energico	3:10
11	Adagio	3:20
12	Vivace	2:07

13	Andantino	0:42
14	Con Brio	0:44
15	Allegretto Cantabile	1:00
16	Poco sostenuto	2:06
17	Giusto	0:53
18	Con sentimento	3:00
19	Robusto	0:32
20	Lento e espressivo	1:43
21	Presto	0:30
22	Con dolcezza	1:48

23	Liberamente	2:39
24	Liberamente, Andante con moto	3:11
25	Liberamente, Allegro con brio	2:48

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Contemporary Danish Works

JOURNEY

Notes by Lars Hannibal

It is a great pleasure for OUR Recordings to provide the music on this cd its first international release. The works are all world premiere recordings, and have been composed especially for Kim Sjøgren and myself. The music represents different aspects of contemporary Danish Music, and also reflects the variety of music genres that we - under the name *Duo Concertante* - worked with through fifteen years.

The contemporary repertoire for the combination of violin and guitar was very limited at the time, and we were happy that these four outstanding Danish composers - amongst others - accepted our invitation to write for the Duo. For both Herman D. Koppel and Jørgen Jersild it was the first time to write for the guitar, and being part of the process was an invaluable part of my musical experience. Vagn Holmboe already knew the guitar very well as he had previously composed many guitar works, including a solo sonata for Andrés Segovia.

The inspiration for the piece by Palle Mikkelborg was a small essay called *Everything matters* by the great Danish ballet

dancer Erik Bruhn. With this in mind the piece was created over a longer period, and as the titles of the movements indicate, it also reflects a spiritual journey. Erik Bruhn remembered from his childhood an episode where he was sitting in a treetop, and his mother and sisters called to him. He felt he did not have to take notice, because he was the only one who knew that he was not there! This zen-buddhist way of thinking was one of the composer's inspirations.

When the music was finished, it became obvious that it would be well suited for a ballet, and we invited London-based choreographer Christopher Bruce to create one. He accepted the invitation, and made the ballet he called *Journey* for The Houston Ballet Company, in remembrance of Erik Bruhn. It was world premiered in Houston in 1990, and filmed by Thomas Grimm for the Danish Radio/TV in 1991 - a version which has since then been broadcasted in many countries.

For concert performances an additional pre-recorded tape is required - on this recording, Palle Mikkelborg is playing the various keyboards.





About Duo Concertante:

Photo: Gorm Valentin

Kim Sjogren and I first met in 1971 when we both studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Århus. We played together from time to time - many different kinds of music, including folk, rock and jazz music.

In 1980, we started performing under the name *Duo Concertante* and continued until 1994. During that time we played more than 1.000 concerts, recorded 10 cd's, and appeared on many television and radio programs of various character. Our main performing field was Denmark, but we toured extensively in Spain and played concerts in Germany and France also.

Our 10-year anniversary concert was held in Wigmore Hall in London, with a program including *Everything matters* - the first time electric amplified instruments were used in this wonderful historical Concert Hall!

Our repertoire often reflected our interest in different kinds of music such as jazz and folk, though the essence of the programming was the classical repertoire such as Paganini, Giuliani, Sarasate, Ibert, Villa-Lobos, Grieg, Nielsen as well as the contemporary music written especially for us.



Palle Mikkelborg

Photo: Gorm Valentin

Palle Mikkelborg (born 1941) is one of the international profiles of Danish Jazz, working as a trumpeter, composer arranger and conductor. His production includes works for orchestra, choir, big band and smaller ensembles, and also *Aura* written for and recorded by Miles Davis in 1984. Palle Mikkelborg has toured as a soloist and recorded with musicians such as Gil Evans Big Band, George

Russel Big Band, Jan Gabarek, Gary Peacock, Dinu Saluzzi, Terje Rypdal and Niels-Henning Ørsted Petersen. He is an extraordinary improviser and inspirator, and through his music he explores the high-tech possibilities for creating previously undreamt sound landscapes. Honours he has received include Nordic Councils Music Prize and the Carl Nielsen Honorary Prize.





Herman D. Koppel

Photo: Suste Bonnén

Herman D. Koppel (1908-1998) was Professor of piano at the Royal Academy of Music in Copenhagen, and composer. His works includes seven symphonies, four piano concerts, six string quartets, many instrumental concertos, music for choir, sacred music, chamber music and ballet. As a pianist, he was considered one of the most important in Denmark. He also composed popular music that is well known by

today's Danish population. Herman D. Koppel was the father, grandfather and even great-grandfather of a significant Danish music dynasty, including his 2 sons, composers Thomas and Anders Koppel. He received numerous honours, including Wilhelm Hansen's Composers Award and Honorary Gift, Carl Nielsen Award, and he was an honorary member of the Danish Composers' Society until his death in 1998.



Jørgen Jersild

Photo: Private

Jørgen Jersild (1913 – 2004) is in the unique position of having his relatively few, though extremely personal works well-known beyond the boundaries of the Scandinavian countries. For many years, he was also Professor of Music Theory at the Royal Academy of Music in Copenhagen, and his music theory books are used in many music Academies around the world. His compositions include chamber music, vocal music, orchestral works, and scenic and dramatic works, including film

music for director Carl Th. Dreyer. Jersild's works for harp occupy a central position, and many of these have been dedicated to the distinguished harpist, Osian Ellis, who has performed the works worldwide. His music is characterized with one of the most difficult aspects in art that only a composer with extreme breadth of view can achieve: simplicity. In 1999 Jørgen Jersild was awarded the Carl Nielsen Honorary Prize.





Vagn Holmboe

Photo: Press

Vagn Holmboe (1909-1996) is considered the most important composer in Denmark after Carl Nielsen, whom he is often wrongly attributed as a student of. For many years, he was Professor of Composition at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen. Amongst his many honours, he was awarded with a lifetime grant from the Danish Government, and today a Festival in his childhood's Horsens has been established in his name and honour. Holmboe composed more than 200 works, including thirteen symphonies, four symphonies

for strings, twenty string quartets, numerous instrumental concertos and chamber music works. His final work, the twenty-first string quartet, *Quartetto Sereno*, was completed by his pupil, Per Nørgård. His music is always characteristically tonal, and metamorphosis of thematic or motivic fragments characterize many of his works. Many of his earlier works show influence by East European composers such as Bartok, and he remained interested in Eastern European folk music all his life.



Kim Sjøgren

Photo: Press

Kim Sjøgren (b.1955) became the Royal Danish Symphony Orchestra's youngest ever concert master at the age of 22, and was there for 10 years. His studies, after his debut when he was only 17, took place in Boston with Joseph Silverstein, on the recommendation of Isaac Stern. Kim Sjøgren has toured the world both as a soloist and as a chamber musician. For many years he was also the leader of *Copenhagen String Trio*, with whom he did many recordings, amongst others the Beethoven String Trios.

Kim Sjøgren's impressive discography also includes Beethoven and Carl Nielsen's Violin

Concertos, and his repertoire includes all the major violin works. Since he was a child Kim Sjøgren was always interested in all kinds of music, and he still says today: "there are only two kinds of music,- good and bad! ". This attitude has always reflected his choices both in his career and his repertoire. In 1997 he formed a chamber orchestra *Little Mermaid Orchestra*, and in 2005 he became violin Professor at the Royal Academy of Music in Århus. He is also a music entertainer, and works and records frequently with musicians from other genres.

www.kimsjogren.dk





Lars Hannibal (b.1951) studied the guitar at the Royal Academy of Music in Århus and the lute with Toyohiko Satoh in The Hague. Since completing his studies in 1980, he focused his career on chamber music and as an accompanist. For many years, Lars Hannibal also was associated guitar teacher at the Royal Academy of Music in Århus.

In addition to his work in *Duo Concertante*, he formed in 1992 a duo with his wife, recorder player Michala Petri. Together they have since toured the world, and played in some of the most prestigious concert Halls and Festivals such as Wigmore Hall in London, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the Verbier Festival in

Lars Hannibal

Photo: Peter Olsen

Switzerland, Schleswig-Holstein Festival in Germany and Shanghai International Festival of Arts. They released 3 cd's for RCA/BMG including *Kreisler Inspirations*, that in 2002 received the German Grammy Deutscher Schallplattenpreis. Their fourth cd *Siesta*, is released on their own recording company OUR Recordings.

Lars Hannibal is also well known for his collaboration with musicians from other genres. Since 2004, he has worked more intensively with Chinese musicians, and in 2007 released *Spirits – East meets West* with the high-profile Chinese Xiao player Chen Yue.

www.larshannibal.dk



Credits:

The works by Vagn Holmboe, Jørgen Jersild and Herman D. Koppel were recorded in the Church of the Royal Castle in Fredensborg August 1988.
Producer and technician: Karin Jürgensen.

The work by Palle Mikkelborg was recorded in June 1988 in the SB Studio in Valby.
Producers:
Palle Mikkelborg, Lars Hannibal and Kim Sjögren,
Technician: Per-Oluf Hansen.

Remastered June 2007
in Sound Track 2 Studio by Ole Hansen.

Artwork, design & layout: Charlotte Bruun Petersen
Cover photos: Stage photos from the ballet *Journey* created on the music *Everything matters*.

Instruments:
Violins: Joanne Baptista Guadagnini 1756 & Louis Dölling jr. 1935 with el-Kit system.
Guitars: Robert S. Ruck 1971 & Takamine.

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